



Nathan Deal
Governor

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

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**Commissioner Bobby Cagle presents DECAL Budgets to
Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committee**

***Budgets include Governor's Proposal to add additional 10 days of instruction to
Georgia's Pre-K Program***

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 25, 2013) – Bobby Cagle, commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), presented his agency's FY13 Amended and FY14 Budget Reports to the Joint Senate and House Appropriations Committee Tuesday during a hearing at the State Capitol. The budgets include a proposal from Governor Nathan Deal to return the school calendar for Georgia's Pre-K Program back to 180 instructional days, beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

"This is very important to Georgia's Pre-K Program and the future learning capacity of Georgia's four-year-old population," said Cagle. "We fully support the Governor's recommendation, look forward to working with the Legislature throughout the appropriations process, and are optimistic this will achieve final passage."

In addition, Cagle explained there are several other changes throughout the budgets but the commissioner anticipates minimal impact on current operations. "We certainly understand the overall financial situation and goals of the state and must do our part as an agency. I am optimistic that we will be able to manage these changes accordingly and don't anticipate any major adverse effects to our programs," Cagle said.

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The Governor's Budget Report – FY2014 and Governor's Budget Report – Amended FY2013 are posted in their entirety on the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget web site at <http://opb.georgia.gov/>.

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.state.ga.us.